

REMARKS

Claims 21, 26, 32, 33, 38 and 39 are now pending in the application. Claims 21 and 32 have been amended. Support for the foregoing amendment can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed, including Figure 11 and accompanying description thereof. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the telephone interview conducted on March 2, 2011. During the interview, the examiner explained how the reference was being interpreted in light of the pending claims. Applicant proposed claim amendments over the phone. While the examiner indicated that such amendments define differences with the reference, the examiner further indicated that these differences may not be patentable distinctions.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21, 32, 33, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara (JP 2003-050534; "Ishihara"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ishihara relates generally to a recording method for an optical memory element. With reference to Figures 2A and 2B, Ishihara clearly teaches the recording beam passes through a cladding layer 3A before recording data onto a recording layer 2D.

Thus, Ishihara does not teach or suggest recording information data on the recording layer by radiating a beam directly onto the recording layer without passing through another layer of the recording medium.

In contrast, Applicant's invention relates generally to a production method of a laminated holographic medium. Of note, applicant's claimed invention recites "recording information data on the recording layer by radiating a beam directly onto the recording layer without passing through another layer of the recording medium" in combination with other claim elements. Applicant has amended the pending claims to clarify this aspect of the present invention.

Moreover, this distinction from the reference provides certain technical advantages. First, when radiating a beam for recording information on the recording layer, the beam is not disturbed by passing through, for example, a cladding layer and a core layer before reaching the recording layer. Therefore, when focusing on converging the beam on a spot of the recording layer, the spot can be small, and hence, it is possible to achieve the recording layer with a high density.

Second, if the beam for recording information on the recording layer passes through, for example, a cladding layer and a cover layer before reaching the recording layer, the beam causes chemical changes or changes by heat. In such a case, there is a possibility of changing the volume of the medium and causing bubbles in the medium. Therefore, in such a case, there is a strong limitation on materials applied to the medium. Compared to Ishihara, the applicant's claimed application does not have such a limitation and provides flexibility for selecting materials. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21, 32, 33, and 38 define patentable subject matter over Ishihara.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Gregory A. Stobbs/_____
Gregory A. Stobbs
Reg. No. 28,764

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GAS/dec